

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

8:30 a.m.

County Board Room – 3rd Floor – Courthouse

M I N U T E S

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with all Commissioners present: Campbell, Evert, Gross, Ingersoll and Weyland. County Administrator Brian C. Berg, Assistant County Attorney Jenny Samarzja, and Senior Administrative Assistant Vicki Reek were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Weyland, seconded by Gross, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved with the addition of: Appointment of new Employee Appreciation Committee Members.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT DONATION

By consent agenda, the Board accepted a \$250 donation from Comstock Wildlife Club to the Clay County Work Detail.

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE 2014 MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH LAKES COUNTRY SERVICE COOPERATIVE

By consent agenda, the Board authorized execution of the 2014 Membership Agreement with Lakes Country Service Cooperative.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

The Board recognized the following employees for their years of service to Clay County: Carol Beckstrom, Social Services Supervisor, 40 years; Mary Luhman-Olsen, Social Services Supervisor, 35 years; Suzi Remboldt, Social Worker, Social Services, 20 years; Gail Burnside, Social Worker, Social Services; 15 years; Cheryl Sapp, Public Health Nurse, 15 years. Michelle Hughes, Case Aide, Social Services, was nominated to the Excellence in Performance Club.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens present who wished to address the Board.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS AND VOUCHERS

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Evert, and unanimously carried, the bills and vouchers were approved for payment.

APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19 & 26 COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS

On motion by Gross, seconded by Weyland, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the November 19 & 26 County Board meetings were approved as presented.

COMMUNICATION FROM LYNN AND DIANE HANSON REQUESTING TO WAIVE FEES FOR
LATE PAYMENT OF TAX

The Board reviewed a communication from Lynn and Diane Hanson requesting that the penalty be waived for their late payment of tax, due to a death in their family.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Evert, and unanimously carried, the Board waived the penalty for late payment of tax (\$103.74) for Lynn & Diane Hanson, parcel #24.027.2600.

REQUEST TO SUBMIT GRANT FOR PROPERTY RECORD INFORMATION SYSTEM OF
MINNESOTA (PRISM)

County Assessor Nancy Gunderson and County Auditor-Treasurer Lori Johnson requested the Board's approval to submit a grant application for funds to implement the Department of Revenue's Property Record Information System of Minnesota (PRISM). This system will provide a centralized database for managing and coordinating information received by the Property Tax Division, making analysis simpler and reports more standard. The grant funds will be used to pay for the programming changes.

On motion by Evert, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized submission of the above mentioned grant application.

REQUEST TO FILL CUSTODIAN I POSITION

On motion by Evert, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized filling the Custodian I position which will be vacant at the end of the year due to retirement.

DISCUSSION RE: 2013 REVENUES & EXPENSES TO DATE

County Administrator Brian C. Berg reviewed the 2013 revenues and expenditures to date, noting that most areas are on track. He added that the expectation at this time is that Social Services will not have to use \$450,000 in reserves, nor will Public Health use \$250,000 in reserves. Mr. Berg was hopeful that the 2014 budget process will result in a lesser degree of revenues over expenditures than in previous years. County Auditor-Treasurer Lori Johnson noted that in previous years, the County expected State and Federal funding to be cut, which ultimately did not happen. Stimulus funds were received as well. Commissioner Campbell guesstimated the County will see \$1.5 million in excess revenue for 2013, which he felt could have been used to fund various departmental requests.

Commissioner Evert noted that income is uncertain and was pleased that Social Services and Public Health will not have to use reserves.

2014 BUDGET DISCUSSION

County Administrator Brian C. Berg reviewed the 2014 budget and levy, noting that the spread levy is \$25,151,532 (3.53%). Adjustments to the budget have been made as follows: \$27,000 for 2012 abatements (effective 9-1-12); \$8,500 for Capital Jail Fund (bringing the Jail Fund to \$50,000); Public Health budget reduced by \$35,500.

Mr. Berg presented examples of general real estate taxes, noting a shift in taxes from residential to agricultural.

The Board briefly discussed the publishing of the annual Financial Statement in the official County newspaper, a cost of approximately \$15,000. The Financial Statement is

available on the County's website and in hard copy to citizens requesting it. Commissioner Evert suggested seeking input from the public on this matter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Commissioner Gross attended the Agassiz Recreational Trails Committee meeting.

Commissioner Evert attended the Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioner Weyland attended a meeting of the Law Library Committee.

County Administrator Brian C. Berg updated the Board on a recent meeting concerning collaboration with Perham regarding disposition of solid waste.

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR VETERAN'S TREATMENT COURT

District Court Judge Michelle Lawson, County Attorney Brian Melton, and Drug/Veteran's Court Coordinator Don Kautzmann were present to seek the Board's support for a Veteran's Treatment Court for Clay and Becker counties. The Veteran's Treatment Court will assist veteran defendants toward sobriety and recovery through ongoing treatment, drug testing, mandatory check-in court appearances and the use of sanctions and incentives to foster behavioral change to reduce criminal behavior and enhance public safety. A pilot program is expected to be implemented in early 2014.

On motion by Weyland, seconded by Evert, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following resolution in support of the Veteran's Treatment Court:

RESOLUTION 2013-52

WHEREAS, the Clay/Becker Veterans Treatment Court is a problem-solving approach that uses the power of the court in collaboration with other criminal justice partners and community members (prosecutors, defense counsel, treatment providers, probation officers, law enforcement, veterans service officer, the Veterans Administration, educational and vocational experts, community leaders, clergy, and others) to closely monitor the veteran defendant's progress toward sobriety and recovery through ongoing treatment, frequent and random drug testing, regular mandatory check-in court appearances, and the use of a range of immediate sanctions and incentives to foster behavioral change to reduce criminal behavior and enhance public safety.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Clay certifies that the Clay/Becker Veterans Treatment Court being located within our jurisdiction, has Clay County's approval to begin a Veterans Treatment Court.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

On motion by Gross, seconded by Weyland, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed the following employees to the Employee Appreciation Committee: Amanda Olson, Matt Brown, and Angela Dannewitz. Returning members of the Committee are: Mary Frahm, Kara Hagen, Greg Kordosky, and Joe Olson.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



Wayne Ingersoll, Chair

Clay County Board of Commissioners



Brian C. Berg, County Administrator